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V. I. No. 11

N^o XI.

SPECIMENS OF COLLEGE PLATE.

WITH THIRTEEN PLATES.

CAMBRIDGE:

PRINTED AT THE UNIVERSITY PRESS.

PUBLISHED BY J. & J. J. DEIGHTON, AND T. STEVENSON;
JOHN W. PARKER, LONDON;

AND

J. H. PARKER, OXFORD.

M.DCCC.XLV.

SPECIMENS
OF
COLLEGE PLATE.

BY
THE REV. J. J. SMITH,
FELLOW AND TUTOR OF GONVILLE AND CAIUS COLLEGE.

WITH THIRTEEN PLATES.

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COLLEGE PLATE.

1782065

SOME time has elapsed since the Society first authorized the design of publishing on its account a selection of examples to illustrate the subject of the above title.

It is a subject possessing considerable interest of a mixed character. For an account of it involves historical details of customs, manners, wealth, and art. The editor of the following paper has followed out this view with some particularity in a paper inserted in a work entitled 'The Cambridge Portfolio.' For this reason, and especially because it is requisite here to keep within narrow bounds, he forbears enlarging on the view above opened.

The examples of College Plate which have come under observation, as possessing superior interest, either historical or belonging to works of art, are the following :—

- I. The Drinking Horn, in Corpus Christi College.
- II. The Foundress' Cup, in Pembroke College.
- III. The 'Anathema Cup,' in Pembroke College.
- IV. The 'Poison Cup,' in Clare Hall.
- V. The Foundress' two Cups, in Christ's College ; her Salt, and Apostle Spoons.
- VI. Abp. Parker's Salt, and Apostle Spoons, in Corpus Christi College.
- VII. The 'Three Kings' Cup, in Corpus Christi College.
- VIII. Abp. Parker's Cup, in the same College.

There are several others belonging to the Plate given to the College by this benefactor.

- IX. Abp. Parker's Ewer and Platter.
- X. Two Cocoa-nut Cups, a Quart Cup and a Silver Mug, in Gonville and Caius College.
- XI. The Founder's Cup, in Emmanuel College.
- XII. The Cup of Gold, in Clare Hall.

Of these it is intended either to offer some representation and description, or to refer to sources where such want may be best supplied. Tradition gives a few broad facts, and usage has framed a few household terms in application to these articles.

I. A representation of this object has been given more than once. In the *Archæologia*, Vol. iii. 19, is a plate from a drawing by M. Tyson, in 1772, who had been fellow of the College; and the engraving is accompanied with an account descriptive and historical. A like account is given in the present Master's edition of the *History of the College*, p. 9, and 409. An engraving, in lithograph, by Rawlins, from a drawing of it by Sir H. Dryden, Bart., is inserted together with an account at p. 296 of the *Cambridge Portfolio*.

II. For the following account we are indebted to the accurate and laborious History of the College, which has been drawn up in manuscript, by the present Master.

Marie de S. Paul, widow of Aymer de Valence Earl of Pembroke, bequeathed to the Society which she founded under the name of Valence-Marie College, a silver-gilt cup¹, which is included in her will under the description of "adornemens, reliques, joiaux, et autres choses."

In an entry in the Registrum Membran., made in 1490, we have the following notice :

Fundatrix nostra dedit nobis plurima jocalia:

Imprimis, duas pelves argenteas cum armis fundatricis nostræ, et duo lavacra argentea:

Item septem pecias² planas cum armis fundatricis:

Item *unam magnam murram* cum armis staceatis³ in fundo; cum aliis jocalibus plurimis in capella et thesauraria.

If we suppose this *murra* to be the cup at present remaining, there must be a wrong description in one point, as that cup is not ornamented with the armorial bearings of the countess. The mistake in the entry may easily have befallen a careless observer, from the fact of the arms being engraved on the other articles of plate.

In Registro Magno, an Inventory taken in 1491, p. 11—16, we find the following entry, though apparently added at a later date:


Item duo magna salsaria deaurata quorum unum habet coopertorium cum pilo in summitate ex dono Magistri Ricardi Sokborn legum doctoris et hujus Collegii quondam socii.

After which follows another entry in different ink:

Item *una murra argentea* deaurata cum scriptura circūiente GOD HELP AT NED et cum coopertorio ligneo pilam argenteam et deauratam in summitate habente. Item 13 coccliaría argentea deaurata cum calamis cacuminatis in modum turris, ex dono præfati doctoris Sokborn.

From this entry it does not appear certain whether the *murra* was intended to be described as Sokborn's gift or not; but the circumscription is that of the Foundress' Cup.

But the first certain notice of this cup is in an Inventory of 1546.

Item *pecia* stans cum coopertorio ligneo  my Ladie's cup.

In an Inventory of 1606, Bishop Andrewes being Master, it appears that the College still possessed one Bason and Ewer, the former weighing 39 oz., the latter 16 $\frac{3}{4}$ oz., and the Cup weighing 20 oz. And these, as we learn from Bishop Wren, who was at that time fellow of the College, were all that remained of the plate given by the Foundress.

In later times, however, a tradition has prevailed, that, at some period or other, an exact imitation of the Cup was made, and that one, it was not known which, was lost. The fact of such a duplicate having been made is established by

¹ There is an engraving of it in Lysons' *Britannia*, ii. p. 106.

² *Pecia*, Angl. piece.

³ Impaled, from *staca* a stake or pale.

Bishop Andrewes's will (bearing date September 22nd, 1626,) which contains the following clause :

"Item, I further give and bequeath to the said Master, Fellows and Scholars, and their successors, the Bason and Ewer of silver, parcel-gilt, which I caused to be made in imitation as near as could be to the Foundress her Bason and Ewer with her arms in the midst of the Bason. And also I give and bequeath to them the Cup of silver-gilt, which I likewise caused to be made in imitation, as near as could be, to the Foundress' Cup, commonly called My Ladie's Cup, as a poor memorial and thankful remembrance of that good lady, by whose bounty I was so long maintained at my book there."

When, in 1641-2, all the Colleges made contributions of plate to king Charles I., Pembroke joined with the rest in sending all that they could spare. In a correspondence which took place between the Masters of Pembroke and Jesus Colleges, relative to the bequest of Bishop Wren, who, by his will in 1665, directed that such of his plate as Pembroke had not occasion for, should go to Jesus College. Dr Mapletoft, the Master of Pembroke, thus accounts for the small share of the bequest which remained over for Jesus College: "Pembroke Hall had a little of their old Communion Plate, for pure necessity, a Paten, a Chalice, a Flagon, (the rest was sent to the king, to relieve him in the beginning of the rebellion.)"

No doubt Bishop Andrewes's copy of the Cup was given with the other plate at that time. For we can hardly suppose that the Society would have sent the original and retained the copy; especially as in point of the value of the metal, one was probably as precious as the other. Nor could any uncertainty exist at the time of the Restoration, in 1660, of the fellows ejected in 1643-4, as to which Cup had been thus disposed of; for they must have had a clear recollection of both Cups, and most of them had taken part in the contribution. An Inventory taken at the Restoration describes the plate in the treasury to be "One flagon, one chalice and paten. One Anathema Cup, gilt. The Foundresse her Cup."

The weight of the Cup is stated in the earliest catalogues to be 20 oz. In the Inventory taken by William Sampson, 1673, it is stated to be 20 oz. 3 dwt. On a recent weighing, it proved to be 21 oz. 17 dwt.; the increase may be accounted for by a quantity of lead which has been most injudiciously employed for the two-fold purpose of hindering leakage, and of uniting more firmly the cup and the stem, which appear to have been originally fastened together by a nut and screw. The form consisted of bowl, stem, and base; the latter encircled by a rope-like ring, such as connects the cup and stem, and ornamented with a coronet³. This was lately removed as decidedly not appertaining to the original, but shewn by the coronet to belong to the age of the Tudors. It was most probably added before 1584, (when the weight is assigned 20 oz.), in order to give it steadiness. Since the separation by the saw, the cup and stem weigh 17 oz. 16 dwt.

On the bowl of the Cup is the following inscription;

Sayn denes y^t es me d're
For hes lof drenk and mak gud cher

³ Such as is the case of the Foundress' Quart-Cup in Christ's College. An engraving of it with this base is given in Shaw's *Decorations of the Middle Ages*.

And on the stem,

V M
God help at need.

There is also at the bottom of the bowl the letter M, doubtless the initial of the donor's name.

The V and M are of later workmanship than the rest, and are on opposite sides of the stem, so that there is nothing to shew which has precedence. The most obvious explanation is that they stand for the name Valence-Marie.

Mr Cole, well known among antiquaries, conjectures either 'God help at need, Mary de Valentia.' Or, 'O blessed Virgin Mary, send us good help at need.' This second interpretation supposes the word *god* before *help*, to mean *good*, which cannot be, as this latter word is spelled *gud* on the bowl. The single M in the interior of the bowl he interprets MEMENTOTE.

The care, which has been taken by the present Master of Pembroke in searching into all the records connected with this interesting memorial of ancient munificence, may redeem the College from the imputation cast by Mr Cole on the then existing members of the body. He dined in the hall of Pembroke College, on January 1st, 1773, and writes thus:

"The inscription not a soul could read in the College, and the tradition of it was forgotten.—I could not help admiring the utter indifference of the company and fellows in the hall concerning the antiquity of the Cup and its inscription'."

III. It will be perceived that the inscription supplies the current title of this Cup. The denunciation there written, however, has not saved the cover.

The Inventory (1584) describes it as *gilt*: it was doubly gilt, though it is now little more than silver. The weight is given, 67 oz., with the cover; without it, 39 $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. Mr Parkin, in his MSS., Vol. VI., *Pembroke, Thos. Langton*, notes it as the 'oldest piece of plate remaining'; thus exhibiting the ignorance of a Pembrochian about points of the greatest domestic interest.

IV. The origin of this piece of plate so singular in its composition, like the glass enclosed within its veil of filagree, is wrapped in the shroud of uncertainty; yet is the mystery not so deep as to defy the influence of romance.

It is of course called the Foundress' cup: for record runs not to the contrary; and certainly it is worthy of that renown. A mysterious stone crowns the lid, which boasted to possess a charm against the traitor's deadly malice: for, if the draught presented in this cup were poisoned, that stone would surely split. Nothing further remains to be said of importance, either in the view of history or description. The curious cup is preserved with all becoming regard under the charge of the Master of the College.

V. Of old a cup of silver, or silver-gilt, was common as a gift-article; it was the usual entrance-fee of a 'Pensionarius Major,' or Fellow-commoner; and modern

¹ MSS. in Brit. Mus. Vol. XLII. p. 241.

usage exhibits the like practice in the rewards of all kinds of competition, from the flower-show to the race and regatta. The old practice alluded to is fondly remembered at the College-board in the solemn passing of the time-honoured Founder's Cup at the commemoration feast.

In the examples now to be described, the claim to the title of 'Foundress' Cup' seems to rest on tradition or common repute: however, the design, execution, and ornament, bespeak them to be of that antiquity. If they had been always as carefully regarded, as now they are much admired, their history would have been easily and certainly told. They are now in excellent condition, both of them silver-gilt.

The general design of the larger Cup is formed on the cone, the different portions being divided by mouldings, plain and enriched; and the surfaces partly burnished, partly adorned with stamped figures.

The basement is part inclined, part upright: this latter showing in succession a plain band, a border of rose-bearing sprays, a plain band, and then a coronet of fleur-de-lis.

From the top of the flowers, with rather awkward effect, rises the *conical* stem, terminated by a cable moulding. The surface is adorned with a border of oak-leaf and acorn, of rose and leaf, and of strawberry-leaf and fruit, in which the leaves, stalk, and fruit, are burnished or partly engraved on, and placed on a friezed ground sprinkled with dots engraved. These borders lie spirally round the stem, with burnished space intervening.

The bowl is *conical*, the bottom resting on the stem and overhanging, as a bladder containing liquid would do upon anything pressing under it. The lip is plain.

The cover is of two *cones* relatively inverted: at the bottom is an upright portion exactly like to that described in the basement. The surface of this bears five borders of oak, rose, and strawberry, similar to those on the stem, spirally arranged. At the junction of the cones is a plane knot of loops indented at their edge.

The upper cone, inverted, is surmounted by a turban, as it were, the upright surface of which is relieved with a band of quatrefoil and cable, each between two plain round bands or threads; and to it are affixed, at equal intervals, six pendant pinnacles.

The flat top bears a rose, just such is shown in the etching of the Salt.

Within the bowl, at the bottom, upon a cinquefoil surface of green enamel, slightly raised, is a shield bearing quarterly *France and England, within a bordure argent, impaling gules on a chevron argent three estoiles sable*.

The *Pint-Cup* is in character of shape more squat and depressed.

The surface throughout is covered scale-wise with segments of circular rings, burnished, the included spaces being lined with thread-marks.

The basement has its upright part at the top, consisting of a series of plain mouldings enclosing a border of rope and one of quatrefoil, surmounted by an embattled edge.

The stem is separated from the bowl by a burnished cable-band.

The cover hangs its edge over the plain lip of the bowl, and rises with an upright portion, a repetition of the corresponding part in the basement. It is in four tiers of gently ascending surfaces, and then shoots up in a conical form towards

The weight of the spoons is 9oz. 9dwt.

The plate mark, on the flat edge of the base, is a fish, a crowned head, and the letter H, in separate stamps.

There is a Mug, of singular character, at present kept in store, not in use. The form is a cylinder, slightly diminishing in diameter upwards, and standing on a high basement of unequally undulated outline. The surface is engraved with rose and porteuillis within lozenges, the fleur-de-lis appearing above and below, in the segments of the lozenges, made by bands surrounding the bottom and top and middle. This would appear certainly to have been the property of the Foundress.

The plate mark is the same as above-mentioned, and the weight is 25oz. 10dwt

VI. These beautiful specimens of ancient plate are part of the munificent gifts of the famous Archbishop Parker, to the ancient and religious foundation of which he had been master from 1544 to 1553. These gifts appear to have been bestowed upon his College at different periods of time: being partly made by him during his lifetime, after his exaltation to the primacy, and partly bequeathed² by him as a legacy, after his death, which took place in 1575. Thus, in an acquittance of plate, delivered to the College by John Parker, Esq., the Archbishop's son and heir, the plate therein mentioned is said to have been given, *partly in the life of the Archbishop, and partly since his decease*. In all of such acquittances and other contemporaneous documents the present specimens are noticed. In a tripartite indenture, made Aug. 6, 1569, betwixt the three Colleges of Corpus Christi, 'Gunwell and Caius,' and Trinity Hall, which seems to be a joint acknowledgment of the Archbishop's benefactions to them, they are thus described: "Item one greate Salte with the Couer of Siluer and whole gilte. xl. oz. Item xij Spones, whole gilte, with knoppes of Christe and his xij Apostells, for the vse of the M^r and xij fellowes for the time being. xxvi. oz." Again, in an acquittance, dated Aug. 10, 1576, and consequently after the Archbishop's death, the "thirtene spones" are said to be "of siluer gilte with the pietures of Chryste and the Apostells."

The salt-cellar is elegant in form, and stands about $11\frac{3}{4}$ inches in height, the feet and lid being included. The feet, which are three in number, represent the fore-part of some strange mythological animal, apparently three-toed and web-footed. On these is placed a highly ornamented base or circular moulding, three quarters of an inch in depth; the larger diameter of which base is $5\frac{7}{8}$, and the smaller $3\frac{7}{8}$ inches. Immediately above this basal moulding the body of the salt-cellar is perfectly cylindrical, and very richly chased. The height of the cylindrical part is $4\frac{3}{4}$ inches. At equal distances from each other, in the middle section or circumference, it is decorated with three different heads of horned satyrs surrounded by oval borders; and on narrow

² "Do et lego Sociis Corp. Christi *Cantabrigie* vulgo vocat. Bennet College (ubi primos progressus in literis fecerim)..... unum salinum cum operculo deaurat. 40 oz. unum cochleare deaurat. et duodecim alia deaurat. ponder. 26 oz. dim. et quart. dim." *Testamentum* Matthæi. D. Archiep. Cant. See Strype's Appendix to Life of Parker, Book iv. No. C. p. 187. fol.

Plate mark, a lion or leopard; the other mark undecipherable.

circumferential bands, at either end, are engraved in Roman characters the following inscriptions.

On the lower band :

SALINVM + HOC + CVM : PIXIDE : PRO + PIPERE : IN : OPERCVLO + CVM : 13
COCLEARIBVS + DEAVRATIS : QVÆ + HEÑT : CHRVM : ET + APLÖS +
PONDERANT : oz 64.

On the upper band :

MATTHÆVS + ARCHIEPVS + CANTVARIENSIS + DEDIT + COLLEGIO + CORPORIS
+ CHRISTI + CANTABRIGLÆ + PRIMO : SEPTEMBRIS + ANNO + DNÏ : 1570 +

The cylindrical part, just spoken of, forms the principal body of the salt-cellar, and is capped above by another highly ornamental circular moulding, the dimensions of which are exactly equal to those of the base. On the upper part of this moulding is placed a shallow margin corresponding to and fitting the lid or cover, and surrounding a spherical bowl, $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter by $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches in depth, for the purpose of containing the salt.

The lid or cover, including the part which is used for a pepper-box, is altogether 5 inches in height, and very elegant in shape. It is highly ornamented and chased, and immediately above the base of the pepper-box are placed, as before, at equal distances from each other, three curious projecting figures of sea-horses, or some other mythological marine animal. There seems, however, to be no mode of opening the last-mentioned vessel so as to fill it with the pungent dust intended to occupy it. Probably it was filled through the very few and somewhat large holes which are left at the top, and mark the purpose for which it was used. Our Elizabethan ancestors were perhaps more sparing in their use of pepper than many of our modern gourmands.

With respect to the spoons but little need be said. They are each 7 inches in length. The bowls are of singular shape, being broader at the lower end, and are $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches in length by 2 inches in breadth. The figures are about $1\frac{1}{8}$ inches in height, and all dressed in flowing robes, but not all of them capped with a crown of glory. Some are bearing crosses, others swords, and one of them is carrying an axe. They were, as it appears from one of the indentures above referred to, intended for the use of the master and fellows of Corpus Christi, the number of whom had been increased by Archbishop Parker from eight to twelve.

The preceding description was furnished by the Rev. James Goodwin, Fellow of Corpus Christi College. An engraving of the salt is to be seen in Dibdin's *Reminiscences of a Literary Life* (Pref. p. xi.), but not quite worthy of its subject.

The next article is the substance of a paper read before the Society by the same member of it in 1843.

VII. This piece, preserved among *The Founder's Plate*, is a cup of small dimensions, having a shallow bowl, on the lip of which are inscribed the following words :

Jasper . melchior . balthasar.

These words are separated each from the other by a crown, and they are the names of those who are commonly called *the three Kings of Cologne*. As these names appear to have been connected with divers strange and obsolete superstitions, it will be desirable to say a few preliminary words concerning the notable personages who bear them, and likewise to mention a few of those superstitions.

Jasper, Melchior, and Balthasar, are the names of the three very celebrated kings of Cologne, reputed to have been the identical magi, or "wiseards," as Sir John Cheke¹ calls them, who came from the East to Jerusalem, and presented their gifts unto the infant Jesus. Tradition has handed down to us the story, that these magi or wise men were three in number; a circumstance which St Matthew does not notice at all, but which, no doubt, was of old invented in order to assign to each one of them the bearing of a particular gift to our Saviour. It was a not uncommon opinion of the early fathers, who perhaps were much too prone to discover antitypes for each of the minutest details of Scripture, that the gifts of the wise men to Christ were symbolical. "Matthæus," says Irenæus, "Magos ab oriente venientes ait dixisse, vidimus stellam ejus in oriente et venimus adorare eum, deductosque a stella in domum Jacob ad Emmanuel, per ea quæ obtulerunt munera ostendisse, quis erat qui adorabatur; myrrham quidem, quod ipse erat, qui pro mortali humano genere moreretur et sepeliretur; aurum vero, quoniam Rex, ejus regni finis non est; thus vero, quoniam Deus, qui et notus in Judæa factus est, et manifestus iis qui non querebant eum²." Upon a similar principle, therefore, I conceive that ancient superstition assigned *three* to be the real number of the wise men of the east, in order that each of them might be considered as the bearer of a particular gift, when they came from a far distant country to worship the infant Jesus, who was born king of the Jews. In correspondence with this opinion is the first line on an old brass, presently to be mentioned:

Jasper fert Myrrham, Thus Melchior, Balthasar Aurum.

From this it seems that, as the gifts were of *three* different kinds, gold, frankincense, and myrrh, the symbolical meanings of them *three*, and representing our Lord in a *threefold* point of view, perhaps also pointing Him out in His *triple* character of King, Priest, and Prophet; so likewise the bearers of these gifts were reputed to be *three* in number; and hence arose the tradition of the *three* wise men of the east, or the *three* kings of Cologne.

Again, it is a matter of curious enquiry, wherefore has a kingly dignity been assigned to the eastern magi: for St Matthew has taken no notice whatever of their real rank and condition; he merely designates them as being "wise men from the east." Now, although it be easy to form a conjecture on this point, yet a reference to ancient authority will, perhaps, be more satisfactory. In a neat pictorial representation of the Epiphany, which is found in a MS. of the fourteenth century³, belonging to the library

¹ Translation of S. Matthew's Gospel, ch. ii. 1—11. 8vo, Lond. 1843.

² D. Irenæi adversus hæreses Valentini et similibus, Lib. iii. cap. x. See also Chrysostomi in Mattheum. Hom. viii.

³ No. CLXIV.

of Corpus Christi College, the magi are delineated in the act of presenting their gifts, each being adorned with a golden crown. By way of illustrating the subject of this drawing, four half-length figures of the prophets Isaiah, Jeremiah, Micah, and David, are placed at the corners of it; each of whom is made to be uttering a prophetic declaration respecting the Messiah and the coming of the Gentiles to Him¹. The words which are put into the mouth of David² are taken from the tenth verse of Psalm lxxii. the authorised version of which is as follows:

"The kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall bring presents: the kings of Sheba and Seba shall offer gifts."

The adorning, therefore, the magi with crowns of gold, and the designating them as kings, may, probably, have special reference to this particular prophecy. Perhaps also their number may have been reputed to be *three*, in order to render it more closely applicable to them, or in order to identify them with the kings of Sheba and Seba, of Tarshish and the isles.

Such, then, is the probable origin of these two traditionary stories respecting the wise men of the east, which have for many centuries been received and acknowledged as authentic by the Roman catholic church. But, whatever be their real origin, it is somewhat satisfactory to know that appeal both may be, and has been, made in behalf of them at least to the bare letter of Holy Scripture. It would be well if all other Roman Catholic traditions and legends of saints were able to justify their claims to general acceptance and belief by a similar appeal to the pure word of God.

The next thing is the reason why these three wise men are spoken of as being of the city of Cologne, so that, *the three Kings of Cologne* has become a common appellative of them.

The following history will satisfy our enquiries in this particular.

Helena, the mother of the famous emperor Constantine, was a person of obscure birth in Bithynia. While in that country she became the wife of Constantius Chlorus, but was subsequently divorced from him, after he had become associated in the empire. When Constantine became emperor, A.D. 306, he paid great honour to his mother Helena, and conferred on her the title of Augusta. At the age of eighty she made a journey to the Holy Land, where, it is said, she assisted at the discovery of the cross. Among other relics she is likewise said to have brought over with her to Constantinople the bones of the three eastern magi who presented their gifts to the infant Messiah. But these bones, it seems, did not find their final resting-place at Constantinople. Many centuries afterwards it came to pass that they were again removed, and transported from Constantinople to Cologne, by Rainold, archbishop of that see. Since their last removal to it, the "ill-built, ill-arranged, ill-fumigated"³ city of Cologne has been the

¹ The following verses or explanation of the picture is given at the bottom of the page, being written in black letter:

Plebs notat hee gentes Xpo jungi cupientes.

Xps adoratur: aurû, thus, mirra letatur.

Hoc tipice gentem notat ad Xpm venientem.

² Reges Tharsis, et insule munera offerent.

³ Quarterly Review, 1834. No. ciii. Art. ix. p. 213.

celebrated "abode of the skulls" of the three wise men of the east, and the relics made the subject of much superstitious veneration. A jubilee in commemoration of these kings is celebrated at Cologne every hundredth year; the sixth and last of which was held on Sunday, July 23, 1764, and lasted eight days⁴.

Hence, therefore, the eastern magi have been named *the three kings of Cologne*⁵; and even to the present day there remains, in the stupendous cathedral of that city, a magnificent mausoleum erected to their honour. "You are told," says Mrs Trollope, in her *Tour through Belgium and Western Germany*, in 1833, "with the most grave and dignified assumption of historical truth, that this splendid monument contains" their bones. "But let the bones contained in it," she adds, "be whose they may, the shrine itself is most superb; and when you enter the little tabernacle in which it is deposited, there is something so mystically glowing in the eternal lamplight reflected by the gold and precious stones,—something so horrific in the three grim skulls protruding themselves from amidst the jewels with which they are encircled, for each one

‘The likeness of a kingly crown has on;’

and the whole scene is at once so ghastly, and so gorgeous, that, for the moment one is almost tempted to believe some real sanctity must be attached to the relics, which princes and prelates have for ages agreed to honour with such extravagant and strange devotion. The date of this singular monument is 1170⁶."

As to the superstitions of old connected with the three famous eastern kings, it has been said of their reputed relics, as it has been said of all other popish relics and saints, that many miracles were wrought wherever they rested as they were transported to Cologne. No doubt Archbishop Rainold, by means of such pious frauds, very greatly enhanced his own merit in the sight of the good people of Cologne for having transported the relics thither.

Again writes Sir Walter Scott in his beautiful tale of *Quentin Durward*, "the kings of the blessed city of Cologne will not endure that a Jew or infidel should enter within the walls of their town⁷." It seems then that the presence of the relics of the three wise men was considered as a species of protection against the intrusion of the Jew, or the invasion of the infidel.

Again, the carrying about on the person the names of the three kings was considered as a sort of charm against the falling sickness. This I learn from the inscription on a loose brass, which was formerly in the old vestry of the church of St Peter

⁴ Gentleman's Magazine, Vol. xxxiv. p. 395.

⁵ Cologne appears to have been a favorite place of resort for itinerant visitors from the east, whether dead or alive. In the Historical Chronicle of the Gentleman's Magazine for April, 1761, is the following:

"Friday, 17. Two men arrived at Cologne, who say they come from Damascus, are 700 years old, and are sent by heaven to call men to repentance. They foretell the dissolution of the world in 1773, understand Greek, Latin, Hebrew, and Chaldaic, and are sent to Rome for farther examination."—*Gentleman's Magazine*, Vol. xxxi. p. 187.

⁶ Mrs Trollope's *Belgium and Western Germany*, ch. vi.

⁷ *Quentin Durward*, ch. xvii.

of Mancroft, in the city of Norwich, and has been before slightly alluded to. The brass is thus inscribed:—

**Jasper fert Myrrham, Thus Melchior, Balthasar Aurum,
Per tria qui serum portabit nomina Regum,
Solbitur a Morbo, Christi Pietate, raduro.**

This very appropriate triplet of Latin verse has thus, by being translated into English, been converted into a quartetto:

Myrrh, frankincense, and gold, the eastern kings
Devote to Christ the Lord, as offerings:
For which, of those, who their three names do bear,
The falling sickness never need to fear.

The author of the English translation is unknown; but the Latin verses are taken from a loose brass, which, says Blomefield, was some time since in the old vestry of St Peter of Mancroft, in the city of Norwich, but it is not there now.

How fond a tradition was this of the “three kings of Cologne,” appears by the old heralds taking them in hand. In Harl. MSS. 2129, p. 112, we find “the 3 kinges of Cullen’s coats,” set down thus:

Rex Melchior de Collen, bears argent a star or, with a crescent or.

Rex Balthasar de Collen, bears sable a star or.

Rex Jespar de Collen, or a man sable pale face proper, in a coate purpur, hose sable, holding in his right hand a speare staff purpur hed proper, a banner thearat, the other hand on the breste.

The probable date of admission of this cup into the College there are no means of ascertaining with accuracy. The stem is of silver gilt, and twisted in the form of a six-threaded screw. It is so contrived that it can at pleasure be separated from the bowl, the lower part of which is made of a dark brown and hard wood, extending as far as the first ornamental border. From thence to the top of the bowl the material is silver gilt, and just below the upper edge or lip of the cup is the band, about half an inch in depth, on which are engraven the names of the three kings, separated from each other by their respective emblems or crowns. The inside of the



bowl contains, at the bottom, a circular and raised medallion, on which is engraven the singular representation of a squirrel sitting on the back of a large fish, and busily engaged in the act of cracking nuts, gathered by it, apparently, from a neighbouring bush. What this quaint device may mean it is not perhaps very easy to say, or in what manner to connect it with the cup itself; unless it be merely the private mark of the maker, who probably was some foreign artist.

The dimensions of the cup are as follows :

| | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Diameter of bowl..... | $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches. |
| Depth of bowl..... | 2 inches. |
| Height of stem..... | $3\frac{1}{4}$ inches. |
| Diameter of base..... | 4 inches. |

Again, what is the purpose for which this cup was intended to be used? The shape, the construction, and the mixed material of which it is made, alike combine to render it improbable that it could have been intended as a drinking cup, although it is capable of holding fluid. It seems most probable that its real object was to serve as an offering cup at some altar or shrine, either dedicated to the three kings, or at least where there was some picture and representation of them. This conclusion seems to be warranted by the evidence supplied from the little drawing which has been before referred to. There we see the kings, with their several gifts in their hands, contained, however, not in caskets, but in cups. The one who is kneeling down is presenting an open cup, apparently full of gold coin, into which the infant Saviour, while held by his mother on her knee, is dipping his hand. The other two, likewise, have similar receptacles in their hands for the frankincense and myrrh. The cup now before us may probably, therefore, have been intended to be used as a cup for offerings and gifts, to be placed upon and used at that altar or shrine, which had either been dedicated to the three kings, or where, at least, there was some painting, image, or any other kind of representation of them.

VIII. The Archbishop's splendid Ewer and Platter must be presented at some future time. They are beautiful specimens of engraved plate; and are in excellent preservation, and condition.

IX. The College herein mentioned possesses very few remnants of ancient plate, having experienced one of the reverses which befall worldly treasures, "that thieves break through and steal." This loss was the penalty on over-much security and unwatchfulness. The event above alluded to befel in 1801. The few relics, here mentioned, owe their preservation to the obscurity in which they abode, having been then long disused, and laid up in the College Treasury. Still, it would seem, there is a medium between the safety which is gained by disuse, and such use as precludes safety.

Archbishop Parker was a friend and confidant of the founder, Dr Caius; and testified his friendship by some recollection of the Founder's College. Amongst other marks of this feeling, he gave the plate mentioned under this number.

(1) A quart cup, silver-gilt, 40 oz. in weight; the number is under the foot, and *unc.* 40 within the lid. The cover is surmounted with a figure, an infant Bacchus, whose right hand holds the thyrsus, and left rests on a standing shield.

It is of several pieces, joined together by coarse contrivance. The body of the cup is adorned with a border of engraved leaf. Round the interior of the cover is this inscription :

MATTHÆUS CANTUAR DEDIT COLLE^o GUNWELL ET CAIUS, CANTAB. A^o. 1569
1^o JAN. CONSEC^{us} SUÆ XI^o. ET ÆTATIS SUÆ 60.

Between each word a small rose is for distinction engraved. The height of this cup is 15 inches.

(2) The mug, of silver, has a graceful shape; it is a narrow cylinder on a broad basement: the surface is covered with a kind of scroll-work stamped on it. It bears this inscription :

+ MATTHÆUS : ARCHIEPS : CANTUAR : DEDIT : COLLE^o : GUNWELLI : ET :
CAII : CANTAB : 1^o JAN : A^o : DI. 1571.

And for the plate-mark *a crowned head full front*, opposite to *a lion gardant passant*: on either side a letter, R and U.

| | |
|--|---------------------|
| The height of the Mug and Cover is . . . | 6 $\frac{2}{3}$ in. |
| Mug | 5 $\frac{1}{3}$ |
| Diameter of the base | 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| mouth | 2 $\frac{2}{3}$. |

On the cover are Archbishop Parker's arms, and above it the weight mark, *uncis* 15 . 3 dwt.: but within is cut the figure 15 . 9. The plate mark is also there, and very clear.

(3) The two Cocoa-nut Cups are alike in general character. The body is a cocoa-shell, mounted in silver-gilt: i. e. having the cover, lip, stem, and base of that substance. Silver-gilt ornamented braces gird the shell, connecting the lip and stand.

In the smaller one the lid has a circlet of fleur-de-lis round its base, and the summit of its very nicely tapering cone is crowned with a pine apple. The foot of this Cup is plain.

The larger Cup stands on three sitting lions: its basement is crowned with an embattled edge, the stem is conical, dotted over. The shell in this has been adorned with colour and gilding. The braces bear a cable band between two rows of fleur-de-lis. The lip is bounded below by a band of fleur-de-lis; and the space between this and the edge is scattered with flowers impressed. The cover rising up to some height, terminates in a pyramid surmounted by a crescent, which seems to connect the cup with another Founder, Bishop Bateman, who bore this crest. And thus this article would possess an interesting claim to antiquity of origin: for the date of the bishop's death was 1390.

The dimensions are as follow :

| <i>Of the larger.</i> | | <i>Of the smaller.</i> | |
|----------------------------|------------------|------------------------|----------------|
| Height of the Cup . . . | 11 in. | . . . | 10 in. |
| Cover . . . | $6\frac{3}{4}$ | | |
| Nut . . . | $4\frac{1}{3}$ | | $3\frac{1}{2}$ |
| Length of lip | $1\frac{1}{4}$ | | 1 in. |
| Breadth of Cover | $3\frac{1}{4}$ | | $3\frac{3}{4}$ |
| Base | $4\frac{1}{3}$. | | |

X. A brief notice of this appears in the *Cambridge Portfolio*, in the article upon Ancient Plate.

XI. Such seems to have been its hereditary title, through the life of the College : moreover, the workmanship has always been attributed to the celebrated Benvenuto Cellini. The experienced eye will judge well enough, from the annexed drawing, of the value of the claim. 'The fancies of this artist ran on classical designs,' a remark well exemplified in this piece of work : and it is well enough illustrated by descriptions of some of his works, at pp. 15, 16, 79, in the life of him by Roscoe.

It may be noted with respect to the lions at the base, that this animal formed the crest of Sir Walter Mildmay, and with that emblematic authority surmounts the entrance to the College.

The top of the Cup is in two parts connected by a screw.

The dimensions are as follow :

| | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|
| Height of the Cup | 8 in. |
| Cover | $7\frac{1}{4}$ |
| Diameter of the base | 6 |
| bowl | 10 outside. |
| Depth of the bowl | $9\frac{1}{3}$ inside. |

The weight of the Cup is 63oz. 10dwt ; of the cover, 34oz. : in all 97oz. 10dwt.

On the reverse of the arms are the letters W. M. joined together by a knot.

The arms of Sir Walter Mildmay are thus blazoned by Cole, (LVI. 340,) from the College Book of Benefactors : *Quarterly, 1st A. 3 lions rampant B. armed and langued : 2nd B. on a canton Or, a mullet B. : 3rd B. a cheveron embattled O. inter 3 roses Argent seeded Or : 4th Per fess nebule A. and S. 3 greyhounds' heads coupés counter-changed, collared Or.*

Crest : *a lion's head erased Or, gorged with a coronet B. Mantle G. lined A. sash G. tassels Or.*

This Cup has gone down the table many times and oft, in *piam memoriam* (*Fun-datoris*). But its exploits have been only of the day ; none of its triumphs have been written. It has lost none of its beauty by lapse of years ; and it is preserved with all the affection of obedient sons towards the revered Father and Founder.

XII. A description of this singular piece is given at p. 491 in the *Cambridge Portfolio*.

The larger and more elaborate Cups are sometimes called "Grace-Cups," from their privilege of going down the table at the close of dinner, before the saying Grace. The formal custom maintains its ground at not a few ancient corporate boards. And custom rules the draught also as well as the vessel. The plate-marks above-mentioned in V., VI., and X., will be explained in part by reference to the present custom. There are five points in the Mark now used: (1) the manufacturer's name; (2) the Lion gardant for the London Hall; (3) the Leopard's head for the assay mark; (4) the letter for the date, *i. e.* the year-mark, which is changed every year; (5) the Queen's head, which is the duty-mark. The Table of dates of various marks kept at the Goldsmith's Hall does not go further back than 1696. It may be observed also that each Hall, at a different place, as Exeter, Birmingham, &c., has its own mark.

The subject of this number might very easily be extended: sufficient, however, it will perhaps be considered, has been done to show how much interest the subject is capable of affording. It may further be hoped that in each several College some member of it will be found to supply a description of what its treasures contain. and to fill up the measure of that which is here but commenced.



Mill. B. Gonsalo del.

J. L. Milliam. c.



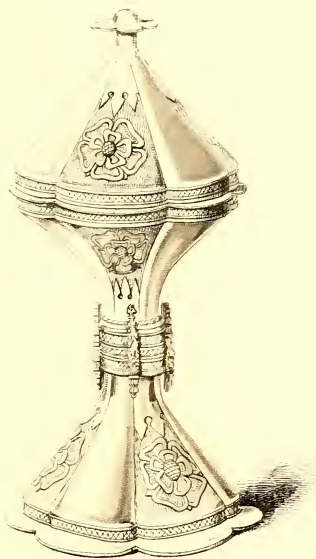
qui alienaverit anathema sit & levi bñe
 Glancon Winton eps aule pembrochie olim soci? dedit Hæc
 Rallæa coopl'a eide aule 1298.



THE
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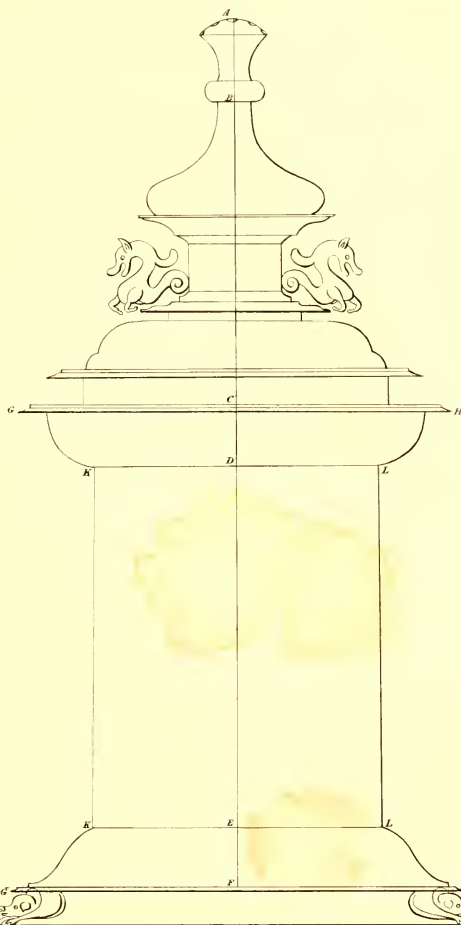


C. E. Weston del.

J. L. Wilson



Archbishop Parker's Salt in Corpus Christi College.



| | | | |
|--|---|-----------------|-------------|
| <i>AB</i> | = | 1 | <i>inch</i> |
| <i>BC</i> | = | 4 | " |
| <i>CD</i> | = | $\frac{3}{4}$ | " |
| <i>DE</i> | = | $4\frac{1}{2}$ | " |
| <i>EF</i> | = | $\frac{1}{2}$ | " |
| <i>AF</i> | = | $11\frac{1}{4}$ | " |
| <i>GH</i> | = | $5\frac{1}{2}$ | " |
| <i>KL</i> | = | $5\frac{1}{2}$ | " |
| <i>Height of feet $\frac{1}{2}$ inch</i> | | | |
| <i>Total height $11\frac{1}{4}$ inches.</i> | | | |

Diametrical Section of Abp. Parker's Salt-cellar.

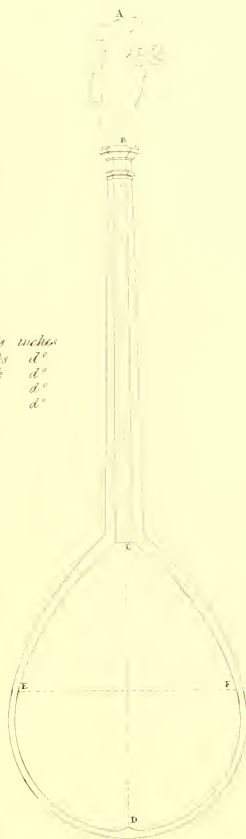


Matthew's Spoon

Thomas's Spoon

One of Archbishop Parker's XIII Apostle Spoons

| | | | |
|------|-----|-------------------|---------------|
| AB | $=$ | $1^{\frac{1}{4}}$ | <i>inches</i> |
| BC | $=$ | $3\frac{7}{8}$ | d° |
| CD | $=$ | $2\frac{1}{2}$ | d° |
| AD | $=$ | 7 | d° |
| EF | $=$ | 2 | d° |







Hollman & Co. N.Y.

The Cup of the Three Kings
Cup Chr. Coll. Cam.



miniatured by the Schreyer

The Offering of the three Kings
MS. V. CLXIV f. 100 v. 101



J. T. Greenough del.

The Founder's Cup in Emmanuel College

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